Cecily. But what name ?
Algernon. Oh, any name you like—Algernon—for instance . . .
Cecily. But I don't like the name of Algernon.
Algernon. Well, my own dear, sweet, loving little darling, I really can't see why you should object to the name of Algernon. It is not at all a bad name. In fact, it is rather an aristocratic name. Half of the chaps who get into the Bankruptcy Court are called Algernon. But seriously, Cecily . . . *[Moving to her.]* . . . if my name was Algy, couldn't you love me?
Cecily. [Rising.'] I might respect you, Ernest, I might admire your character, but I fear that I should not be able to give you my undivided attention.
Algernon. Ahem! Cecily! *[Picking up hat.]* Your Rector here is, I suppose, thoroughly experienced in the practice of all the rites and ceremonials of the Church?
Cecily. Oh, yes. Dr. Chasuble is a most learned man. He has never written a single book, so you can imagine how much he knows.
Algernon. I must see him at once on a most important christening
—I mean on most important business.
Cecily. Oh!
Algernon. I shan't be away more than half an hour.
Cecily. Considering that we have been engaged since February the 14th, and that I only met you to-day for the first time, I think it is rather hard that you should leave me for so long a period as half an hour. Couldn't you make it twenty minutes ?
Algernon. I'll be back in no time.
[Kisses her and rushes down the garden.
Cecily. What an impetuous boy he is! I like his hair so much, I must enter his proposal in nay diary.

Enter Merriman,

Merriman. A Miss Fairfax has just called to see Mr. Worthing. On very important business, Miss Fairfax states.
Cecily. Isn't Mr. Worthing in his library?
Merriman. Mr. Worthing went over in the direction of the Rectory some time ago.
Cecily. Pray ask the lady to come out here; Mr. Worthing is sure to be back soon. And you can bring tea.
Merriman. Yes, Miss. *[Goes out.*
-Cecily. Miss Fairfax 1 I suppose one of the many good elderly